

Pre-Budget Fiscal Statement: Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment

October 2024

The below table sets out the Scottish Government portfolio affected, the description of the policy area, the amount reduced from each portfolio as a result of measures being taken (in £millions) and an assessment of the impacts as outlined.

Deputy First Minister, Economy and Gaelic

Agreed Saving	Description	£million (reduction)	Equality & Fairness – Evidence and Impact Analysis
Visit Scotland – Branding and campaign spend	Saving achieved through reducing VisitScotland’s marketing activity during 2024-25.	0.83	<p>The saving identified will impact VisitScotland’s activity to promote direct transport routes to Scotland and drive bookings from key markets, including UK, France, Germany and the US. It is looking across its activity to ensure that it maximises the impact of its remaining budget.</p> <p>Visitor numbers depend on a number of variables, such as the global economic climate and the weather, and are therefore difficult to predict. In any given year, an increase or reduction in forward bookings will impact tourism and events businesses across Scotland. The reduction in funding will reduce VisitScotland’s ability to work with partners to extend the reach and impact of their market development activity designed to drive regional and seasonal spread and spend of visitors.</p> <p>Whilst VisitScotland’s market development activities will be scaled back from those planned, VisitScotland will continue to use its expertise to maximise the impact of its own and partner channels, including relationships with travel intermediaries, to attract domestic and international visitors to Scotland.</p> <p>The tourism sector supports 229,000 jobs which are inclusive in nature: they are readily available throughout Scotland and can be accessed by people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds and age groups and those with a wide range of abilities. Often, jobs in tourism and the related field of hospitality provide an opportunity to enter work for the first time and can offer flexibility in terms of shift patterns etc.</p>

			The impact on employment due to the suspension of this core Visit Scotland activity is difficult to isolate and quantify in the short term because of the variables impacting on visitor numbers (see above) but visitor numbers do provide an immediate stimulus to the Scottish economy and any reduction (or slowing of growth) will have a potential impact on employment in the sector.
European Structural Funds Disallowance	This relates to a provision made to manage anticipated losses in the European Social Fund, which emerged after the programme was placed into suspension by the EC. The saving reflects a revised forecast on the scale of these losses.	0.8	None

Education and Skills

Agreed Saving	Description	£million (reduction)	Equality & Fairness – Evidence and Impact Analysis
HE student support	These savings are currently anticipated due to the demand-led nature of this budget line and underlying trends such as previous COVID places.	6.0	There is no quantifiable impact from the savings. HE student support is an entitlement model and the budget is demand-led. These savings are anticipated due to a recorded reduction in applications received to date by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland.
Other	Savings are anticipated from reduced demand and reprofiling of spend activity across activities.	0.2	These savings are anticipated to materialise from reduced demand in programmes or from reprofiling. At this stage, there is no quantifiable impact from the savings.

Early Learning Childcare (ELC)	Savings are anticipated from reduced demand and reprofiling of spend activity.	0.2	These savings are anticipated to materialise from reduced demand in programmes or from reprofiling. At this stage, there is no quantifiable impact from the savings.
Children's Rights, Protection and Justice	No existing programmes or projects are being stopped as a result of this reduction from unallocated funding.	0.3	No quantifiable impact since decisions on how the funding would be allocated had not been finalised. The £25k which remains in the budget will enable us to fund age assessment training for local authorities, and to update some key parts of the guidance for local authorities on age assessment.

Health and Social Care

Agreed Saving	Description	£million (reduction)	Equality & Fairness – Evidence and Impact Analysis
Community Eyecare	This reflects non-recurring savings realised in the Community Eyecare programme budget line.	2.4	These savings will not impact on the delivery of existing services. Due to reprofiling no direct impact identified.
COVID-19 funding and other services	Continuing to drive down expenditure and seek operational improvements in covid activity including vaccinations, PPE and test and protect.	20.3	Along with new vaccine developments and programmes, we are also seeing a decrease in eligible cohorts for our flu and Covid-19 programmes and PPE/Test and Protect as we move away from an emergency pandemic footing. Minimal impact.
Education and Training	Scaling back activity in various workforce lines	8.2	Saving realised through scaling back activity but there are no major equalities impacts identified.

	including NHSS Academy and Leadership Talent Management. Also includes reduction in Distinction award line, reflecting declining scheme demand.		
General Medical Services	Non-recurring savings come from a number of budget lines with some planned work re-profiled or paused. Examples of this include Digital Improvement and Strategic Communication work. There is no reduction in existing spend or activity and the revised budget continues to support core activity.	11.0	These savings will not impact on the delivery of existing services. Due to reprofiling no direct impact identified.
Health Improvement and Protection	Updated profile of spend on innovation and immunisations alongside a reduction against a number of smaller health improvement budget lines.	4.1	Main savings come from reduction in data provider and reprofiling of Innovation spend. No/minimal impact expected from these changes.
Mental Health	Saving includes	18.8	We know that some groups of people (including those experiencing poverty,

Services	mainstreaming elements of the Distress Brief Interventions programme, student mental health measures and additional Mental Health Officer funding, and reprofiling the commencement of the Changing Places Toilet fund.		minority ethnic people, women and girls, disabled people and LGBTI+ people) can have poorer mental health than others and that budget reductions risk disproportionately impacting on these communities. The need to reprofile the commencement of the Changing Places Toilets this financial year means that it will take longer to deliver the benefits of this funding to disabled people. In seeking to mitigate impacts across all mental health spend, SG will draw on the work undertaken with stakeholders to gather evidence and continue to drive forward the Mental Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan with a focus on reducing mental health inequalities.
National Care Service / Adult Social Care	Savings mainly come from a refinement of some assumed non staff spend associated with the delivery of the NCS, maintaining MDT funding at prior year levels, and uptake of the reopened Independent Living Fund being slower than anticipated in the first half of the year, leading to a reduction in the funding requirements.	13.6	MDT services will be maintained at prior year levels so minimal impact. Additional savings on ILF will have no impact because demand is lower than anticipated.
Quality and Improvement	Includes a review of Alliance funding to align with self-management fund	7.8	Savings identified from reducing activity on spending plans such as transformational change and through reductions in forecasts in self-management fund spend. Minimal impact.

	grant awards, and various smaller savings including the transformational change fund.		
Revenue consequences of NPD Schemes	Saving following in year review of contractual costs.	2.0	No impact, savings generally achieved by finding efficiencies on existing spend and from emerging underspends
Other	Savings made across a number of budget lines, including anticipated changes on demand-led lines, and reprofiling activities. This includes re-phasing of optometry costs and pausing investment in digital trial developments within Health Research and smaller savings across several programmes including	27.7	Savings generated from several programmes nearing completion, emerging underspends and reductions in vaccines cohorts. Minimal impact.

	empowering communities and National contact centre funding.		
--	---	--	--

Justice and Home Affairs

Agreed Saving	Description	£million (reduction)	Equality & Fairness – Evidence and Impact Analysis
Safer communities - uncommitted spend	Savings and uncommitted spend against various grant programme lines in the safer communities budget.	0.1	None of the savings options offered by J&HA Portfolio has resulted in any cuts to service provision or believed to have created a direct impact on: equalities & fairness, children’s rights, consumer duty or islands communities.

Net Zero & Energy

Agreed Saving	Description	£million (reduction)	Equality & Fairness – Evidence and Impact Analysis
Scottish Water Interest on Voted Loans	The new value reflects the actual amount of interest that will be paid on voted loans held by Scottish Water and is accounted for in Scottish Water’s finances. There is no impact on service delivery.	16.0	No Impact

Environmental Standards Scotland operating costs	Reduced forecast of operating expenditure	0.1	N/A – no impact on Equality and Fairness
Scottish Industrial Energy Transformation Fund	Reduction in external consultancy support for in year projects and additional savings.	0.5	N/A – no impact on Equality and Fairness
Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS)	Industry decision to reduce scope of a related project.	0.5	N/A – no impact on Equality and Fairness
Energy Industries senior leadership team	Updated forecast due to re-profiling of timing of project spend on Hydrogen Emerging Energies Technology Fund	0.4	N/A – no impact on Equality and Fairness
Hydrogen programme – reduced fees to Scottish Future Trust (SFT)	In-year savings derived from revisions to the scope of hydrogen commercial investment support services provided by Scottish Futures Trust to the delivery of the hydrogen Programme.	0.3	N/A – no impact on Equality and Fairness
Zero Waste - Waste Initiatives - goods and services -	Reduced forecast following review of all planned activities for delivery feasibility and	2.5	N/A - no direct equality or fairness impacts have been identified at this time

resource de-scoping.	taking account of timing of completion of Circular Economy Bill and deferred 4 nations activity due to UK GE.		
Nature Restoration	Reduced scope and forecast for programme of activities based on feasibility to deliver this financial year, specifically reduced comms costs and deferral of support to Local Authorities capital expenditure	1.0	No direct equality or fairness impacts have been identified at this time
Energy Industries - Additional resource underspends	Resource underspends identified as savings	0.3	N/A – no impact on Equality and Fairness
Air quality public engagement strategy	Reduction to air quality budget supporting delivery of CAFS2 actions, including delivery of an air quality public engagement strategy in 2024	0.1	Delivery is being re-profiled into 2025-26 for these elements of the air quality budget, with no direct impacts on equality or fairness
Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation -	Saving is being released by not running a round of	0.9	No Impact – relates to buildings owned by public bodies. No direct fairness or equality impacts.

Pre-Capital Support - Public Sector	pre-capital support for public sector buildings in 24-25.		
Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation - Marketing activity	this saving is being released by not running a paid for marketing campaign to promote heat in buildings. No cost activity will still be undertaken where appropriate to raise awareness as needed	0.8	This saving arises from deferring marketing activity. Whilst this will push out timescales for raising public awareness it will unlikely have direct impacts on equality or fairness, as support schemes remain operational.

Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

Agreed Saving	Description	£million (reduction)	Equality & Fairness – Evidence and Impact Analysis
Land reform - ongoing implementation and development of land reform policy.	Due to a revision in forecasts from the Land Reform budget	0.5	These savings are anticipated from reprofiling of activity. At this stage, there is no quantifiable impact from the savings
Animal Licences	Release of Animal Licences budget	0.1	The budget was not expected to spend so there is no quantifiable impact from the savings
Community Led Local Development (CLLD) - This	This £800k budget was intended to fund continuation of the CLLD collaboration	0.8	This work would have aimed to improve outcomes for people living in rural areas, where there are unique challenges and opportunities. CLLD work has helped to address rural poverty in previous years. Social

budget creates and preserves jobs in rural communities and supports economic, social, and environmental well-being by supporting community projects.	fund - a challenge fund to which Local Action Groups (LAGs) would directly apply to support better partnership working, on the proviso that they would work with at least one other LAG or other relevant CLLD partner. The fund would have looked to build the capacity of rural grassroots groups and other key stakeholders to lead & participate in collaborative projects.		Return on Investment (SORI) analysis for the 2023/24 financial year indicated that CLLD had a positive impact on reducing poverty to the value of approx. £250,000 across rural Scotland.
--	---	--	---

Social Justice

Agreed Saving	Description	£million (reduction)	Equality & Fairness – Evidence and Impact Analysis
Equalities, Inclusion and Human Rights – Human rights bill team (and other small savings)	Human Rights Bill implementation costs reprofiled to align with revised delivery timetable.	0.1	The reduction in spending is due to a resequencing of work and therefore spending being reprofiled. There is no change to the intention to introduce the HR Bill to protect rights in the longer term and therefore no adverse impacts on children from this change in 24/25 spending, nor in relation to the other areas of impact assessment.
Activities to	Concessionary	0.5	An EQIA has been completed which concluded that some potential negative

support Ukrainian Displaced People in Scotland – removal of dinner provision	dinner provision in Ukraine Resettlement welcome accommodation to be replaced with a £3 flat charge.		effects on protected characteristics have been identified, due to some groups being more likely to have lower incomes. However, officials assess that mitigating action and the exemption policy should prevent negative effects.
Local Government & Housing – covid loan admin	Reduction in administrative costs associated with managing the PRS and Tenant Hardship Loans issued during COVID.	0.1	The savings result from reduced demand in these programmes. At this stage, there is no quantifiable impact from the savings.
Cladding Remediation	Reprofile of existing resource budget expenditure forecast, no reduction in forecast programme activity. Reduction in demand -led forecast. The demand element for the resource budget materialises if the Single Building Assessments conducted highlight the requirement for Urgent Interim Measures. We will not be in a	0.7	<p>We will continue to work with stakeholders, assessing and prioritising buildings for intervention using a risk-based approach, underpinned by the outcomes of the Single Building Assessment, ensuring that the risk to life is identified and mitigated across both Scottish Government and Developer led remediation projects.</p> <p>Buildings within the programme will be assessed and prioritised based on the risks identified by the single building assessment. Supporting pace of cladding remediation, reduction of costs to owners and the public, and ensure that risk to life is identified, assessed, and mitigated.</p>

	position to know this until the SBAs have concluded.		
Equalities, Inclusion and Human Rights – LGBTQI+	Contingency provision for potential legal fees removed.	0.1	No impact
Social Security Scotland – workforce savings realised	Reviewing resource requirements	7.0	This saving is in relation to reviewing our resource requirements, and the timing of when people join the organisation. No direct equality or fairness impacts identified
Social Security Scotland – Pension Age Winter Heating Payment	Change in delivery of Pension Age Winter Heating Payment.	5.0	This reduction is due to not bringing in temporary staff to deliver Pension Age Winter Heating Payment in 2024-25 as a result of change to delivery: no direct equality or fairness impacts identified.
Social Security Scotland – stop development of specific marketing campaign and advertising	Halt work on the development and delivery of an overarching campaign focused on reducing stigma and removing barriers as well as paid-for advertising focused on Funeral Support Payment, Job Start Payment & Young Carers Grant	0.2	<p>Risk that budget reduction will negatively impact benefit uptake amongst eligible people. Paid for marketing is a vital lever in reaching seldom heard audiences. This reduction could disproportionately impact those in certain equality groups, such as disabled people, low income families, carers, minority ethnic people, those from rural areas.</p> <p>To help mitigate the impact of the budget reduction, communication plans and use of staffing resource, will pivot away from paid-for marketing to delivery of zero-cost activity. This would include, for example, an increased focus on PR and media relations, placing of features in press, organic social media content and sharing of digital resources with stakeholders and partners. However, whilst we will not understand impact on benefit uptake until this can be analysed retrospectively, it is important to note that these activities will reach</p>

	uptake.		and engage with a significantly smaller percentage of the people that paid-for marketing would.
Social Security - Scottish Household Survey	This measure is an adjustment to the Social Security Directorate's contribution to the Scottish Household Survey and reflects the current delivery plans.	0.4	No impact
Local Government & Housing – rented sector reform	Reprofiling of a number of lines of activity associated with rented sector reform whilst prioritising the essential groundwork for the Housing Bill, including tenant participation panels, communication campaigns and data collection.	0.3	This saving arises from reprofiling of planned expenditure. No direct equality or fairness impacts have been identified at this time.
Social security - Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU)	Rephasing the Compensation Recovery Unit activity into 2025-26.	1.0	No impact
Social security – travel,	As part of finding savings a decision	0.3	No impact

homeworking and assurance activity	<p>has been taken to not use external advice for External Assurance work (£0.25m) being undertaken in Social Security Scotland.</p> <p>Also, the Social Security Directorate has suspended all travel and has reduced its home working equipment budget that at this stage in the programme is deemed as no longer required.</p>		
------------------------------------	--	--	--

Transport

Agreed Saving	Description	£million (reduction)	Equality & Fairness – Evidence and Impact Analysis
Active & Sustainable Travel budgets – release of last resort savings	The Scottish Government is having to make very difficult decisions to deliver balanced and sustainable spending plans for the 2024-25 financial year.	<p>£23.7 million</p> <p>(Support for Sustainable Travel: £4m Support for Active Travel)</p>	The removal of £19.7m of the active travel budget limits the scope of active travel behaviour change interventions in schools and communities that help people make active travel choices e.g. adult and child cycle training; access to bikes, including adapted bikes; promotion of walking routes for particular groups e.g. women, refugees etc. In Glasgow, the reduced RDEL budget has resulted in no support for the Glasgow Eco Trust, who operate in seven communities across the city, working with low income households, ethnic minorities and disabled people in schools, housing associations and other

	<p>This has impacted the active and sustainable travel budgets, which will not see the increased investment intended in 2024-25. This decision has in part been taken in order to fund the extension to the peak fares removal pilot to September 24. We have continued to invest in interventions to support more people to walk, wheel or cycle for everyday journeys through our new infrastructure and behaviour change delivery models. We have already distributed over £145 million of our 2024-25 budget to delivery partners for activity across both Active Travel infrastructure and behaviour change.</p>	<p>£19.7m)</p>	<p>community groups to deliver health walks, led rides and access to bikes amongst other activities to support active and sustainable travel choices,</p> <p>There is no funding available for sustainable travel this financial year. The £4 million RDEL funding originally allocated would have helped address inequalities in our transport network by providing options for those without access to a car e.g. Demand Responsive bus services in Perth and Kinross. It would also have supported sustainable travel to other forms of public transport eg travel to train station or bus stops. These links would have supported low-income households accessing employment opportunities and would also have improved access to public services e.g healthcare.</p>
--	---	----------------	---



© Crown copyright 2024



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-83601-887-2 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, October 2024

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1515850 (10/24)